

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

The claims have been amended to delete improper multiple dependencies.

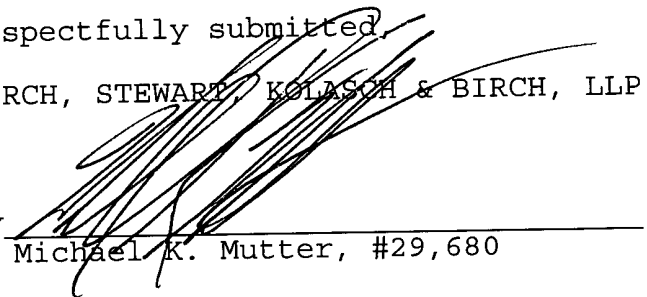
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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Attachment: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) A surface covering according to [any of claims 1-4] claim 1, characterized in that the planks or sheet are made of a plastic or resin material, like PVC, having required additives including UV protection, fire retardance substances, natural or synthetic fibres.

6. (Amended) A surface covering according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the planks or sheet are formed with streaks or lines of colour included in the extrusion to further imitate the grain in wood.

7. (Amended) A surface covering according to [2 or 3] claim 1, characterized in that the surface covering is formed for use as a floor surface, a wall surface, a boat or yacht deck, floor boards in boats and yachts, bath and shower room floors and walls coverings, swimming pool surroundings, curved floor planks inside and outside buildings, cladding, cladding and coverings of many other types of surface recipients.

8. (Amended) A surface covering according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the surface covering is made up by plank strips (1,2) having a colour and luster imitating the grain effect of a wooded material like teak, mahogany, pine, Oregon pine, redwood, etc., which planks are formed with matching male and female means at opposite longitudinal edges for interconnecting same.

9. (Amended) A surface covering according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the surface covering comprises several planks (1,2) and intermediate caulking strips (3), whereby the planks (1,2) are of a colour and lustre imitating the colour and grain structure of a wooden material, and the caulking strips are of a different colour, preferably a dark colour.

11. (Amended) A surface covering according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the covering is extruded in sheet form having co-extruded caulking strips.

12. (Amended) A surface covering according to [any of claims 1-9] claim 1, characterized in that the covering is extruded in sheet form having recesses for later inserting of caulking strips in said recesses.

13. (Amended) A surface covering according to [any of claims 1-7] claim 1, characterized in that covering is a co-extrusion of planks (1,2) and integral caulking strips (3).

14. (Amended) A surface covering according to [any of claims 1-7] claim 1, characterized in that the planks (1,2) and the caulking strips are formed with mating interconnection means, preferably a male connection means (4) along one longitudinal edge and a female connection means (5) along the opposite longitudinal edge.

15. (Amended) A surface covering according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the planks (1, 6) or sheet are formed with longitudinal slots (6) at the underside thereof for facilitating forming of curved coverings and for acting as a base for a glue or adhesive material by means of which the surface covering is mounted on a surface recipient (7).

16. (Amended) A surface according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the planks (1, 2) or sheet are partly filled with a rigid material.

17. (Amended) A surface according to [any of claims 1-15] claim 1, characterized in that the planks (1, 2) or sheet are partly filled, from the underside thereof, with a light weight

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material like a foam material.

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